# Social Indicators: Glossary

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Social Indicator =**

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**Standard of Living** = the quantity of goods and services consumed by a person or- on average- by a group of persons. Because goods and services vary greatly in type and price from nation to another, assessment of standard of living is usually made in relation to average incomes, which may be measured on the basis of GDP per person

**Quality of Life** = the degree of well-being felt by a person or a group of persons. It is a broader measure than standard of living, because it includes environmental and sociopolitical factors (such as access to clean water and political freedom) as well as consumption of goods and services. It is difficult to measure precisely because it includes several relatively intangible factors.

**Gross National Product (GNP) per capita** = the financial value of the goods and services a country produces per person in one year. To measure the GDP, economists add up all the income that people make, and subtract all the money that they spend. The final number is divided by the number of people in a society, to determine the per capita (per person) income, and therefore, the well-being of people in a society. GNP is often used to measure a country’s economic wealth (Gross Domestic Product is very similar; the difference is that GNP refers to the goods and services produced by all citizens of a country, regardless of where they are working and regardless of where the products are sold. GDP refers to the goods and services produced by anyone residing in a country and sold within that country.)

**Alternatives to GNP** = alternative measures that can be used to try to assess the quality of life experienced by particular people. Examples of alternative indicators are: the Genuine Progress Indicator, Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, the Index of Social Health, and the Physical Quality of Life Index. Social Indicators: Glossary Economics for All 57

**Life Expectancy** = how long a person will probably live

**Health Expectancy =** how long a person will probably experience good health

**Daily Calorie Intake** = the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)-WHO (World Health Organization of the United Nations) Consultative Group has determined that, on average, a daily diet of around 2 200 calories is sufficient to meet basic nutrition needs. Like all averages, this conceals important differences.

**Chronic Hunger =** a condition in which people do not get enough food to provide the nutrients they need for fully productive, active, healthy lives.

**Malnutrition =** poor nutrition to such an extent that a person’s physical and/or mental health is/are impaired

**Population Growth** = as a country develops, it is typical for the rate at which the country’s population grows to decrease. Possible reasons for this phenomenon are that in majority world countries women have more control over how many children they will have; furthermore, people in countries with pension systems and effective health care often do not feel the need to have large families to support them in their old age.

**Birth Rate** = the number of births per 1000 people

**The Natural Increase Rate** = the annual difference between the number of births and the number of deaths in a country per thousand people

**Literacy Rate** = the percentage of the population that can read and write

**Infant Mortality Rate** = the number of children under one year of age that die out of every 1000 children that are born

**Low Birth-weight Babies =** babies who weigh less than 2.5 kg at birth. One in five babies born in majority world countries is born with low birth-weight. Low birth-weight babies face increased risk, from age 1 to 3, of seizures, blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy and mental retardation.